

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, and 11-13 by substituting the following:

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1. (Amended) A waveform generating method comprising the steps of:
storing a plurality of partial waveforms in a partial waveform memory;
storing property information on respective ones of the partial waveforms stored in the
partial waveform memory, in a property information memory, the property information being
indicative of at least one characteristic of performance relating to a corresponding one of the
partial waveforms that is included in a phrase, the characteristic being obtained by actual
performance of the phrase;
detecting a partial waveform having property information corresponding to inputted
sounding control information by referring to the property information memory according to the
inputted sounding control information, and reading out the detected partial waveform from the
partial waveform memory ;
processing the readout partial waveform according to the property information and the
sounding control information; and
generating a waveform corresponding to the sounding control information.

2. (Amended) A performance data processing method comprising the steps of:
storing property information on respective ones of a plurality of partial waveforms in a
property information memory, the property information being indicative of at least one
characteristic of performance relating to a corresponding one of the partial waveforms that is
included in a phrase, the characteristic being obtained by actual performance of the phrase;
comparing characteristics of respective ones of notes included in performance data with
the property information stored in the property information memory to detect an optimum partial
waveform for a characteristic of each of the notes;
assigning designation data for designating the detected partial waveform to each of the
notes; and
storing performance data having the designation data assigned thereto.

4. (Amended) A waveform generating method comprising the steps of:
storing performance information corresponding to real-time performance;
generating accompanying tones by automatic performance or automatic accompaniment
according to a tempo clock;
reproducing the stored performance information according to the tempo clock; and
generating waveforms according to performance events, which are performed in real time
synchronously with the accompanying tones and the reproduced performance information.

7. (Amended) A waveform data recording apparatus comprising:

an automatic performing device that reproduces tones based on performance data comprising a plurality of notes relating to a phrase to be recorded;

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a waveform recording device that records a phrase waveform performed simultaneously with the reproduced tones;

a waveform data processing device that divides the phrase waveform into partial waveform data according to a characteristic of each of the notes in performance data.

11. (Amended) A recorded waveform data reproducing apparatus comprising:

a storage device that stores a tone color set from a partial waveform pool in which selected partial waveform data selected from the partial waveform data is pooled, and a partial waveform management database composed of property information assigned to respective ones of the selected partial waveform data pooled in the partial waveform pool;

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a detecting device that retrieves data from the partial waveform management database in the tone color set by characteristic information on respective notes in performance data to detect optimum partial waveform data for each of the notes from the partial waveform pool;

a designation data inserting device that embeds designation data for designating the optimum partial waveform data detected by said detecting device to each of the notes into the performance data; and

a reproducing device that automatically reproduces the performance data in which the designation data is embedded by said designation data inserting device, according to the optimum partial waveform data designated by the designation data.

12. (Amended) A recorded waveform data reproducing apparatus comprising:
a storage device that stores a tone color set from a partial waveform pool in which selected partial waveform data selected from the partial waveform data is pooled, and a partial waveform management database composed of property information assigned to respective ones of the selected partial waveform data pooled in the partial waveform pool;
(a5)
a detecting device that retrieves data from the partial waveform management database in the tone color set by information on respective performance event data that have occurred, to detect optimum partial waveform data for each of the performance event data from the partial waveform pool; and
a reproducing device that reproduces the performance event data according to the optimum partial waveform data detected by said detecting device.

13. (Amended) A recorded waveform data reproducing apparatus comprising:

a storage device that stores a tone color set from a partial waveform pool in which selected partial waveform data selected from the partial waveform data is pooled, and a partial waveform management database composed of property information assigned to respective ones of the selected partial waveform data pooled in the partial waveform pool;

a detecting device that retrieves data from the partial waveform management database in the tone color set by characteristic information on respective notes in performance data read in advance to detect optimum partial waveform data for each of the notes from the partial waveform pool; and

a reproducing device that is responsive to occurrence of performance event data corresponding to respective ones of the notes in the performance data, for reproducing performance tones corresponding to the respective ones of the notes according to the optimum partial waveform data detected by said detecting device.

Please add the following new claims:

14. (New) A waveform generating method according to claim 1, wherein the property information comprises pitch, intensity, length, and pitch ratio between a present tone corresponding to a partial waveform and a following tone.

15. (New) A waveform generating method according to claim 1,
wherein the sounding control information comprises property of a present tone corresponding to a partial waveform and a preceding tone, and
wherein said detecting step comprises detecting a partial waveform that has property information corresponding to the property of the preceding tone and the present tone.

16. (New) A waveform generating method according to claim 1, wherein the sounding control information comprises:
pitch, intensity, and length of a present tone corresponding to a partial waveform;
pitch, intensity, and length of a preceding tone; and
pitch ratio and intensity ratio between the present tone and the preceding tone.

17. (New) A waveform generating method according to claim 15, wherein the pitch ratio is calculated according to a predetermined expression based on the pitch of the preceding tone and the pitch of the present tone.

18. (New) A waveform generating method according to claim 15, wherein the intensity ratio is calculated according to a predetermined expression based on the intensity of the preceding tone and the intensity of the present tone.

19. (New) A performance data processing method according to claim 2, wherein the property information comprises pitch, intensity, length, and pitch ratio between a present tone corresponding to a partial waveform and a following tone.

20. (New) A performance data processing method according to claim 2, wherein the designation data comprises of a meta event and a system exclusive message.

21. (New) A performance data processing method according to claim 2, wherein the designation data is inserted prior to the event data of the performance data.

22. (New) A recorded waveform data reproducing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the designation data comprises of a meta event and a system exclusive message.

23. (New) A recorded waveform data reproducing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the designation data is inserted prior to the event data of the performance data.